

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO AIR STANDARDS FOR EQUIPMENT LEAKS (pumps, valves, connectors, etc.)

ACTION

- On March 31, 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to amend Clean Air Act rules that require a work practice to find and repair equipment leaks.
- Pumps, valves, connectors, etc, are used at refineries, chemical production facilities, and bulk liquid storage facilities.
- EPA has issued approximately 40 national rules which require a work practice to find and repair equipment leaks.
- This rule proposes an alternative to the existing work practice.
 - The new work practice requires imaging technology, like night goggles, which make invisible leaks appear on a video screen.
 - Rule requirements for the new work practice are identical to the old work practice with the exception of requirements specified for the imaging instrument.
 - EPA expects that the new work practice would reduce the costs of finding leaks.
 - The new work practice would have the added benefit of revealing leaks from unregulated equipment thus providing the opportunity for further emission reductions.
- This proposal requests public comments on amending existing standards to include the alternative work practice.
- EPA will accept public comment for 60-days after this notice is published in the *Federal Register*.

BACKGROUND

- Since the early 1980's, EPA has promulgated numerous rules in which require the use of the existing leak detection and repair work practice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download the notice from EPA's web site on the Internet under recently signed rules at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/ramain.html>.
- Today's proposed action and other background information are also available either electronically in www.regulations.gov, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, or in hard copy at EPA's Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC (Docket

ID No. OAR-2004-0019). The Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center is (202) 566-1742.

- HOW TO COMMENT: Comments will be accepted for 60 days beginning when this proposal is published in the Federal Register. All comments should be identified by Docket ID No. EPA-2003-0197 and submitted by one of the following methods:
 - www.regulations.gov;
 - E-mail (a-and-r-docket@epa.gov);
 - Facsimile (202) 566-1741;
 - Mail (Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode: 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460); or
 - Hand delivery (Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC).
- For additional information, visit the EPA's website at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw> or contact *David Markwordt* of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-0837 or by e-mail at markwordt.david@epa.gov .